GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3553
ANSWERED ON:07.08.2002
RELATIONS WITH MALDIVES
VIRENDRA KUMAR

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to strengthen further bilateral relations with Maldives; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH)

(a)&(b) The Government of India attaches great importance to strengtheningits relations with the Maldives, a friendly neighbouring country. India and the Maldives are continually engaged in mutual cooperation focusing on the economic and infrastructure sectors. Such cooperation has included gifting of the 200-bed Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital to the Maldives and continuing to provide medical and para-medical staff to this hospital. In the area of education, cooperation include setting up of the Maldives` Institute of Technical Education and introduction of distance education programmes. India shall also provide assistance in the establishment of an Institute of Hotel and Catering Services in Male.In addition, India has been providing training facilities to the Maldivian nationals in a variety of fields like medicine, engineering, customs administration, nursing, agriculture etc.

The visit of External Affairs Minister to the Maldives from July 10-11, 2002, his first foreign tour after assuming his present position was indicative of India`s desire to further develop and diversify the bilateral relations between our two countries.

Prime Minister`s proposed visit to the Maldives in September 2002 will greatly strengthen bilateral relations.